

Spring 2015

RAINBOW

Free
for all
children!

JMA secretaries'
news inside!

NEWS FROM HAITI



NEWS FROM PAKISTAN



The Methodist Church



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Rainbow Editor: Victoria Ireland

Use of photographs

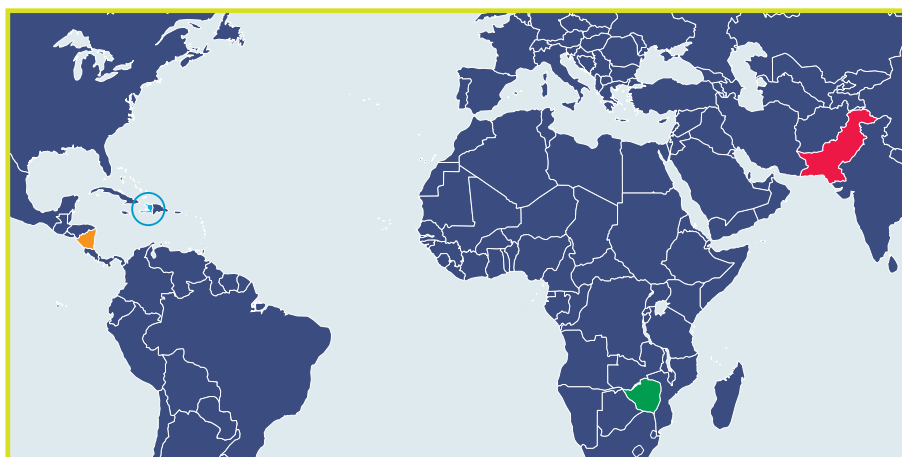
We love to receive photos from events and of collectors receiving their certificates and badges. They can be emailed to childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk or posted to Children & Youth, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR.

All photographs should include written confirmation that written parental consent has been obtained (and the date it was obtained) for the image to be used in *Rainbow*. We are unable to use any images that do not confirm you hold parental consent.



Happy Easter

and welcome to the Spring 2015 issue of *Rainbow*! In this issue we share stories from **Nicaragua**, **Haiti**, **Zimbabwe** and **Pakistan**.



Nicaragua country and flag facts

The capital of Nicaragua is **Managua**.

The five volcanoes represent the original five states of Nicaragua.

The 'Cap of Liberty' represents national freedom.

The rays of the sun and the rainbow are symbolic of the bright future.

This is the only country whose flag has the colour violet on it!



The world's youngest congregation?

Sandra Lopez is partnership coordinator for the Americas and the Caribbean. She wrote to us about her trip to Nicaragua.



"This is Pastor Rosa, who leads a church where 90% of the congregation is under 10 years old! Children take part in every stage of the service, from the Bible reading to the worship and the act of thanksgiving.



Many children got up to take the microphone and say 'thank you' to God for various things during the act of thanksgiving.

The children sit on colourful plastic chairs and join in the whole service.



What was even more wonderful to learn was that the few adults who were there had been brought there by their children. The children had found their way to this church and the parents had followed them!

After the children were fed spiritually, they were then fed physically with a typical Nicaraguan meal of beans, meat and rice. Pastor Rosa served the children generous portions, which I think reflected her generous and giving heart and the heart of those few adults serving in the church."



Prayer focus

Dear Lord,
we thank and praise you for the growing Church in Nicaragua. Thank you for all the children who love to come to church to be in your house. Please be at work in the hearts of their parents so that they can come to know you too.
Amen.

Prayer activity

I love that Nicaragua has a rainbow as part of its flag! Can you use this rainbow to make a thank you prayer? Write or draw one thing for each colour of the rainbow. For example on green you could say thank you for green grapes or spring leaves.

Five years after the Haiti earthquake



In January, we remembered the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti on 12 January 2010. John and Sharon Harbottle have been mission partners in Haiti since August 2012. This is part of their story.



Five years have passed since the earthquake in Haiti that left many people homeless, thousands dead and many injured. On 12 January 2010 a little before 5pm, life changed in this small country, which is the size of Wales.

One of the buildings destroyed in the earthquake was a school. In September the children celebrated the opening of the New College Bird school building. For five years children have gone to school in temporary classrooms and tents. Now they enjoy a new building with new desks and equipment. People from the Methodist Church in Britain, Canada and the USA have helped to pay for the building, together with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

It was a very emotional day as thanksgiving poured from the lips of each speaker – in prayer, song and speech. Thanks were given to God for sustaining his people, for life itself, for the goodwill of churches

There are still signs of things from the past. The new school has been built around a tree that survived the earthquake.



to build the school and the steadfastness of the Methodist Church in Haiti (EMH) in seeing the task through.

Daily we see roads resurfaced, pavements constructed and markets thriving. We continue to be amazed at the resilience of the people and count it as a privilege to be working alongside them restoring clinic facilities and introducing community health, training local preachers, and preparing for the celebration of 200 years of Methodist presence in Haiti, in 2017.



On 12 January, John and Sharon joined a service of commemoration in the Memorial Garden. This garden (below) was planted in memory of the many people who died. In the garden there is a bell that is rung at 16.53, the time when the earthquake struck.



A prayer for Haiti

Heavenly Father, thank you for the people of Haiti. Thank you for their strength to rebuild their lives and their buildings. Thank you for their love for you and their great faith. With them we are filled with joy as each new building opens and we ask that you will continue to bless the work of Sharon and John and all who they work with in Haiti.
Amen



Haiti flag

The coat of arms in the middle of the flag has a trophy full of weapons that are ready to defend freedom. There is also a royal palm, which represents independence. On top of the palm is the Cap of Liberty, which signifies freedom.

The motto on the white scroll reads *L'union fait la force*, which means "unity makes strength".

Design a flag

I enjoyed learning about the meaning of the Haiti coat of arms, and the design on the Nicaragua flag over the page. If you had to design a flag, what would you include? What would you like the flag to 'say'?

A tour of Zimbabwe

Last November, Methodist Youth President Megan Thomas visited Zimbabwe with two of her colleagues, Syntiche Dedji and Lynne Norman.

Here are some of the stories from their visit.

Megan Thomas



Syntiche Dedji



Lynne Norman



Traditional horn used in worship services



The Matthew Rusike Children's Home

The Matthew Rusike Children's Home (MRCH) is in Epworth – a Methodist community just outside the capital city of Harare. MRCH offers a loving home to nearly 150 children and young people, whose parents are either dead or not able to care for them for some other reason.

The children live in small family-style groups. Each one has around 10 children and a house-parent. Every child has to help out to keep the home clean and tidy. But they also have time to play! Megan, Syntiche and Lynne learnt some new outdoor games.



The home has a piggery and a poultry project as well as several vegetable patches so that the home can grow its own food. Feeding and caring for lots of children and their carers is no easy job, and at the Matthew Rusike home they face additional challenges because there is no running water and the electricity supply is very unreliable. Megan, Syntiche and Lynne had to get used to washing from buckets (often with cold water) and doing a lot of things by candlelight!



Church services

Going to church in Zimbabwe was a highlight. During the worship young and old alike sing and dance and play traditional drums, horns and clap. Young people take an active and confident part in the services.

A rural visit

As a contrast to the big cities and towns, Megan, Lynne and Syntiche also visited a family in Muda – a rural part of Zimbabwe that relies heavily on farming. They were made very welcome (“like long-lost relatives”) and greeted with singing and dancing. Supper was cooked on an open fire in a separate kitchen hut. After supper, the grandma (known as ‘Gogo’) told some fairy tales. Everyone then bedded down for the night on the floor of the hut. Very early in the morning (at 5am!) Megan, Lynne and Syntiche were taught how to pump water from the well and also how to use a cow-drawn plough, both jobs that children help with from a very young age.



Megan pumping water from the well



Grandma (Gogo) and children showing how to use a cow-drawn plough



Megan, Syntiche and Lynne covered a lot of kilometres on their tour around Zimbabwe, including driving through **Hwange National Park**, which is the largest national park in Zimbabwe. The park hosts over 100 mammal and 400 bird species including lions, elephants, giraffes, cheetahs, hyenas and leopards.

They also visited **Victoria Falls** – one of the seven natural wonders of the world – located on the Zambezi River, which

is part of the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia. Victoria Falls is classed as the largest expanse of falling water in the world because it is very high (108 metres) and very wide (1,708 metres). The size and beauty of Victoria Falls was overwhelming!

Move your body!

I enjoyed hearing from Lynne, Megan and Syntiche about the church services in Zimbabwe. Lynne told me that a minister they met told them that Zimbabweans worship not just with their mind and their soul but also with their whole bodies. Would you like it if there was more dancing and moving in your church?

Try it at home! Start your day with a worship CD and dance around singing to God. We'd love to see some photos of your family worshipping with their whole bodies!



Loving cups and old shoes

'Methodist Heritage' is the name for the history of the Methodist Church in Britain. This includes stories, buildings, and 'things' that tell the story of Methodism and Methodist people.



One important Methodist building is the Old Rectory, Epworth. Once the childhood home of John and Charles Wesley who started the Methodist movement. The Rectory was built over 300 years ago in 1709, when John was 6 years old. John and Charles lived here with their parents Samuel and Susanna Wesley. They had seven sisters and an older brother called Samuel. You can visit the Rectory today.

Their home was lived in for a long time and when Methodist Heritage opened it up to visitors it did not look like it would have done when John lived there. It was quite modern. The Mission in Britain Fund has helped to restore some parts of the Epworth Old Rectory.

Putting the Hearth back into the Home was a project to uncover and restore an old chimney and fireplaces. As they excavated the walls the team found a shoe. This really surprised

them and they wondered if someone had lost it! When the team did some research they discovered an interesting tradition.

Hiding shoes in a building was very common in post-medieval times. They were often hidden in chimneys, in walls, under the floor or in the roof. Shoes were thought to be a symbol of good luck. We think that they may have been hidden in these holes to stop evil spirits coming into the home.



The cup at the top is called a loving cup. Can you read the words on the cup? It says "LOVE FEAST". John Wesley encouraged early Methodist people to meet together often and



have what they called a 'love feast'. They shared bread together and passed around a cup of water – each of them taking a sip from the same cup. It has two handles so that it's easy to pass from one person to another.

Have you ever shared a cup with someone? You would probably only do it with people who are very close to you. That is why the Methodists did it – it showed how close they were to each other. It was a symbol of their fellowship and friendship.

Learning Greek with the Wesleys

Susanna home-schooled all her children and expected them to know the English alphabet by the age of five. Then she began to teach them Greek. They learned by copying onto a slate. Boys had to know Greek and Latin to go to boarding school and university. In those days it was unusual for girls to have such a good education. Susanna may have been preparing them to be teachers themselves later in life.

Can you copy this Greek sentence?

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

These words are pronounced "En arche en ho logos". This means "In the beginning was the Word". These are the first words in John's Gospel.

A helping hand in the floods

Last October, the Methodist Church in Britain awarded a grant to the Diocese of Multan in Pakistan, to help families affected by the worst floods in 60 years.

The floods, which started in late August, have caused a lot of damage in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. Two million people have had to flee their homes and five hundred have died.

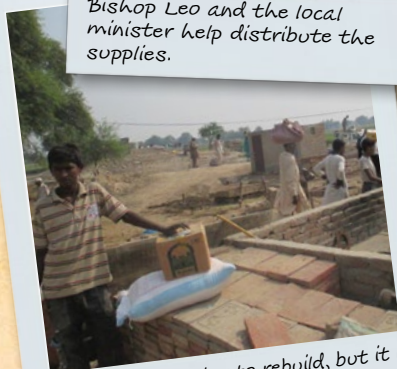
Members of the Church have been visiting the flood areas often to help people who have lost their homes and belongings. They have helped 100 families by giving them new mosquito nets, medicines, flour, sugar, lentils, tea, cooking oil and rice.



Supplies of rice ready to be given.



Bishop Leo and the local minister help distribute the supplies.



People are starting to rebuild, but it is very hard. They do not have outside help or money to buy new things.

Ounch Neech

'Ounch Neech' is a special game of tag that children play in Pakistan. The child who is 'it' chooses either ouch or neech. Ounch means up, and neech means down. Whichever he chooses is not safe. So if the child who is 'it' chooses neech (down) then the ground is not safe and children can be tagged if they are on the ground. To be 'safe', they climb onto a rock, wall or tree to get 'up' off the ground.



Prayer focus

Give thanks for the team in Pakistan who are helping local people as they rebuild after the floods. Thank you to everyone who has given funds to help them buy what is needed.

Pakistan



Pakistan country facts

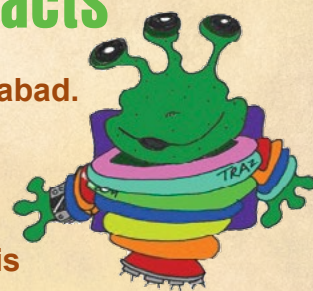
The capital of Pakistan is Islamabad.

The currency of Pakistan is the Pakistani rupee.

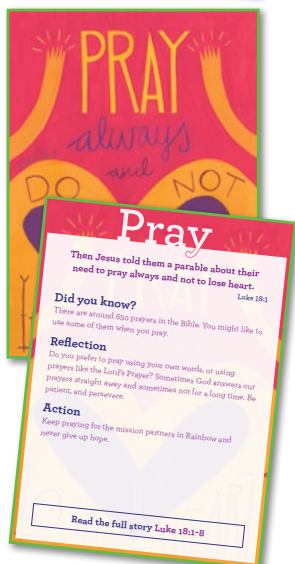
The national drink of Pakistan is 'roh' (sugar cane juice). This juice is sold by roadside vendors throughout the country.

Eighty percent of the world's soccer balls are made in Pakistan.

Pakistan celebrates Children's Day twice a year: on 1 June and 20 November. The elders celebrate with their children sharing stories, teaching lessons and spending time together.



In this issue



Dear JMA secretaries,

Thank you for your ministry with children, and all the ways that you share your passion for mission with others. We hope that you enjoy the stories in this issue.

In this issue we are sharing the second set of three scripture postcards. You can use them with the children to explore the three JMA themes: *Think-Pray-Live*. You could use one in a Sunday School session and then encourage children and their families to talk about the other two at home.



What would you like to see in the next issue of *Rainbow*? Please tell us if you have ideas that we should include.

Please send in details of your fundraising events. If you take photographs please make sure that you have the consent of the parents and guardians and confirm this when you send them in. Then we will be able to publish them in *Rainbow*. You can write to us here: childrenandyouth@methodistchurch.org.uk

JMA
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The Methodist Church
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London
NW1 5JR



Celia Middleton and Lyneth Friday wrote to us from Hounslow Methodist Church to tell us about their JMA award service.

In October 2014, 20 enthusiastic JMA collectors attended the special award service and they were presented with their badges and certificates. Five new collectors have joined the group following the service.

The children's ages range from 3 to 13; they collect gifts of money monthly from their sponsors. The sponsors include their own family members and the Church family.

During the last Church year, the JMA collectors raised £968.50.

Celia Middleton and Lyneth Friday have been sharing the role of JMA secretary for over 17 years. We thoroughly enjoy supporting and encouraging the collectors.

We assist in helping to raise funds by organising and leading two coffee mornings twice each year.

The collectors are encouraged to invite their families and friends to attend the coffee morning. They can relax in a peaceful environment, have a chat and enjoy refreshments such as

cakes and bacon rolls while funds are raised for JMA. Donations of homemade cakes are always welcome.

We look forward to receiving *Rainbow* and welcome the stories, activities, news and prayers.

Each collector is given a copy of *Rainbow* when it is received and we hope that the children and their families will find useful topics in the content to talk about at home.

Lyneth and Celia also shared their JMA prayer with us.

Heavenly Father, we give you **thanks and praise** for the **children, families and friends** who help to support JMA.

We pray that the JMA collectors and leaders continue to **share and spread your word** and good deeds.

We ask you to **strengthen and encourage us** as we **learn, pray and serve** with the worldwide Church.

In Jesus name. **Amen.**



 **children&youth** METHODIST

If you want to know more about JMA please visit our websites:

www.childrenandyouth.org.uk/worker and www.methodist.org.uk/worldMission

The big wordsearch

Earthquake

Nicaragua

Dhal

Haiti

Zimbabwe

Heritage

Lentils

Loving

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Rice

Shoe

Children

Chimney

Flags

Church

Wesley

Pakistan

Elephant

